

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

AUGUST ARDAGNA,
 Petitioner,

vs.

JACK PALMER, *et al.*,
 Respondents.

3:11-cv-00760-ECR-VPC

ORDER

This is a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 in which petitioner, a state prisoner, is proceeding *pro se*. On December 14, 2011, the court denied petitioner's motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*. (ECF No. 3.) Petitioner subsequently paid the filing fee for this action. (ECF No. 4.)

Pursuant to *Herbst v. Cook*, 260 F.3d 1039 (9th Cir. 2001), the court *sua sponte* raises the question of whether the petition is time-barred for failure to file the petition within the one-year limitation period in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1).

On April 24, 1996, Congress enacted the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 ("AEDPA"). The AEDPA imposes various requirements on all petitions for writ of habeas corpus filed after the date of its enactment. *Lindh v. Murphy*, 521 U.S. 320 (1997); *Jeffries v. Wood*, 114 F.3d 1484, 1499 (9th Cir. 1997) (en banc), *cert. denied*, 118 S.Ct. 586 (1997). The instant petition was dispatched to this court by petitioner on September 19, 2011, and thus, it is subject to the provisions of the AEDPA.

The AEDPA imposes a one-year period of limitation on petitioners seeking to file a federal

petition for writ of habeas corpus. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d)(1). As amended, Section 2244, subdivision (d) reads:

(1) A 1-year period of limitation shall apply to an application for a writ of habeas corpus by a person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court. The limitation period shall run from the latest of –

(A) the date on which the judgment became final by the conclusion of direct review or the expiration of the time for seeking such review;

(B) the date on which the impediment to filing an application created by State action in violation of the Constitution or laws of the United States is removed, if the applicant was prevented from filing by such State action;

(C) the date on which the constitutional right asserted was initially recognized by the Supreme Court, if the right has been newly recognized by the Supreme Court and made retroactively applicable to cases on collateral review; or

(D) the date on which the factual predicate of the claim or claims presented could have been discovered through the exercise of due diligence.

(2) The time during which a properly filed application for State post-conviction or other collateral review with respect to the pertinent judgment or claim is pending shall not be counted toward any period of limitation under this subsection.

For convictions that were final before the passage of the AEDPA, the one-year limitation period began to run on April 24, 1996, and expired one year later. *Patterson v. Stewart*, 251 F.3d 1243, 1246 (9th Cir. 2001).

In addition to the statutory tolling provided in 28 U.S.C. § 2244 (d)(2), the AEDPA limitations period is subject to equitable tolling. *Holland v. Florida*, 130 S. Ct. 2549, 2562 (2010); *see Calderon v. United States District Court (Beeler)*, 128 F.3d 1283, 1288 (9th Cir. 1997), *overruled in part on other grounds*, *Calderon v. United States District Court (Kelly)*, 163 F.3d 530 (9th Cir. 1998). Equitable tolling is available only “if extraordinary circumstances beyond a prisoner’s control make it impossible to file a petition on time.” *Beeler*, 128 F.3d at 1288.

Tillema v. Long, 253 F.3d 494 (9th Cir. 2001) contains a clear statement of the basic law

1 governing equitable tolling of the AEDPA statute of limitations:

2 As we have previously held, “[w]hen external forces, rather than a
 3 petitioner’s lack of diligence, account for the failure to file a timely claim,
 4 equitable tolling of the statute may be appropriate.” *Miles v. Prunty*, 187 F.3d
 5 1104, 1107 (9th Cir. 1999); *see also Calderon v. United States Dist. Court*
 6 *(Kelly)*, 128 F.3d 1283, 1288-89 (9th Cir. 1997), *overruled on other grounds by*
 7 *Calderon v. United States Dist. Court*, 163 F.3d 530 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc)
 8 (petitioner entitled to equitable tolling where petitioner’s counsel withdrew and
 left replacement counsel with unusable work product that made timely filing
 impossible); *Kelly*, 163 F.3d at 541-42 (petitioner entitled to equitable tolling
 because the district court ordered a stay preventing petitioner’s counsel from
 filing a timely habeas petition and because petitioner was allegedly mentally
 incompetent).

9 *Tillema*, 253 F.3d at 504; *see also Holland v. Florida*, 130 S.Ct. 2549, 2562-63 (2010).

10 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has also made clear that equitable tolling is unavailable in
 11 most cases. *Miranda v. Castro*, 292 F.3d 1063, 1066 (9th Cir. 2002); *Miles v. Prunty*, 187 F.3d 1104,
 12 1107 (9th Cir. 1999). Equitable tolling is only appropriate “if extraordinary circumstances beyond a
 13 prisoner’s control make it impossible to file a petition on time.” *Miranda*, 292 F.3d at 1066 (quoting
 14 *Calderon v. United States Dist. Court (Beeler)*, 1289 F.3d 1283, 1288 (9th Cir. 1997), *overruled in part*
 15 *on other grounds by Calderon v. United States Dist. Court (Kelly)*, 163 F.3d 530 (9th Cir. 1998)(en
 16 banc)(emphasis in original). “Indeed, ‘the threshold necessary to trigger equitable tolling [under
 17 AEDPA] is very high, lest the exceptions swallow the rule.’” *Miranda*, 292 F.3d at 1066 (quoting *United*
 18 *States v. Marcello*, 212 F.3d 1005, 1010 (7th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 531 U.S. 878 (2000)).

19 The Supreme Court reiterated that “a petitioner is entitled to equitable tolling only if he shows:
 20 ‘(1) that he has been pursuing his rights diligently, and (2) that some extraordinary circumstance stood
 21 in his way’ and prevented timely filing.” *Holland*, 130 S.Ct. at 2562 (quoting *Pace v. DiGuglielmo*, 544
 22 U.S. 408, 418 (2005)). The Court made clear that the “exercise of a court’s equity powers . . . must be
 23 made on a case-by-case basis,” while emphasizing “the need for flexibility” and “avoiding [the
 24 application of] mechanical rules.” *Holland*, 130 S.Ct. at 2563 (internal quotations and citations
 25 omitted). In making a determination on equitable tolling, courts must “exercise judgment in light of
 26 prior precedent, but with awareness of the fact that specific circumstances, often hard to predict in
 advance, could warrant special treatment in an appropriate case.” *Holland*, 130 S.Ct. at 2563.

1 In this case, the documents attached to the petition show that petitioner was convicted of first-
2 degree murder with use of a deadly weapon on January 30, 1991. Petitioner did not file a direct appeal.
3 Petitioner did not dispatch his instant petition to this court until September 19, 2011. Unless otherwise
4 tolled, the one-year limitation period for filing a federal habeas petition began running after the effective
5 date of the AEDPA, April 24, 1996, and expired one year later, April 24, 1997. The papers presented
6 by petitioner do not show that any post-conviction proceedings occurred in state court until petitioner
7 filed a motion to correct illegal sentence on July 19, 2007—over a decade after the statute of limitations
8 expired. Accordingly, the court orders petitioner to show cause, in writing, why the petition should not
9 be dismissed with prejudice as untimely.

10 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED** that the clerk **SHALL FILE** the petition (ECF No. 1-1).

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that, within **thirty (30) days** of entry of this order,
12 petitioner shall **SHOW CAUSE** in writing why the petition should not be dismissed with prejudice as
13 time-barred. If petitioner does not timely respond to this order, the petition will be dismissed with
14 prejudice as time-barred without further advance notice. If petitioner responds but fails to show with
15 competent evidence that the petition is timely, the action will be dismissed with prejudice.

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that all assertions of fact made by petitioner must be
17 detailed, must be specific as to time and place, and must be supported by competent evidence. The court
18 will not consider any assertions of fact that are not specific as to time and place, that are not made
19 pursuant to a declaration under penalty of perjury based upon personal knowledge, and/or that are not
20 supported by competent evidence filed by petitioner in the record in this court.

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22 Dated this 31st day of January, 2012.

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24 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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